THEA 510 – Advanced Creative Drama (The ReMix)

Bedau
Syllabus
Fall 2011
T/TH 11:00-12:15

Dani Bedau
Phone: 619-594-3764
Email: dbedau@mail.sdsu.edu
Office Hours: Monday, 1:00-3:00 PM or by appointment
DA 210

Overview

In this class we will study and experience processes and techniques involved in devising and developing a new plays. The techniques learned here can be applied to any subject matter and adapted to a variety of contexts. The subject of focus for our work is community; building community, learning more about our community(ies), building community across borders (geographic, ethnic, religious, real, imposed), and examining the ways that art helps to make community.

Required Reading List

Please Purchase:

Time You Let Me In: 25 Poets under 25 by Naomi Shihab Nye
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
Salting the Ocean by Naomi Shihab Nye

These will be given in class:

Awkward Spaces of Fathering by Stuart Aitken
**Attendance/Participation/Communication (10 Points)**

This is an advanced-level, activity-based course. 80% of the course takes place in the room. It is essential that you come to class EVERY SESSION that class is held and that you arrive ON TIME. I know that life happens, so you get one absence for free. Use it wisely. After that, your grade is reduced by half of a grade point for each absence from the class. If you already know of dates you need to miss for religious or other reasons, if you let me know before the end of the third week of class I will consider these on a case-by-case basis. As for late arrivals, you get three for free. After that, the late arrivals will also begin to lower your grade.

When you are in class you are expected to participate in every activity and to turn in/present all assignments on time.

I will be sending emails via Blackboard with course details on a regular basis. You are expected to check your email daily. It is your responsibility to ensure that Blackboard has your correct email address in the system. If, in the body of the email I ask you to reply to me to ensure that you received and understood the email, it is my expectation that you do so. If you don’t reply I will assume you did not get it.

**Stillness (5 Points)**

We will begin each class with an exploration of stillness. Sometimes we will sit, sometimes stand or walk or other variations. We will use stillness as one tool to transition into our creative, communal space.

**Movement (5 Points)**

We will utilize movement on a daily basis. We will use it to help us transition from stillness into the work of the day. We will engage in movement events that express our learning and thinking or to stimulate creativity.

**Poetry – The Poet Inside (20 Points)**

**Reading, listening, watching, writing**

We will read poetry outside class, inside class, silently, aloud. You will be asked to watch and listen to the world around you with poet eyes and poet ears. You will be asked to write poetry and invited to share your own poems or the poems of others.

- Space Poems
- Shared Poems – pass the paper
‘What You Hear’ Poems
‘Start With a Poem’ Poems
Ethnopoetry – Interview Subjects (2)

Projects

**Poetry in Motion Solo Performance (10 Points)**

Take one of the poems generated over the past few weeks and the movement vocabulary that has been developed in class. Set your poem in motion. 1-3 minutes.

**The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (10 Points)**

This project requires that you work in small groups to develop a science-based lesson plan utilizing the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot. This lesson should be aimed at high school aged students. Read the book and create either a lesson plan or study guide based on the book. This is a written assignment, but you will be asked to create a 5-10 minute presentation for the class based on your work.

**Broad Canvas (5 Points)**

Professor Bedau is collaborating with Professor Abdeslam Chetioui, of Ben M’sik University in Casablanca, Morocco, on a new play called *Broad Canvas*. You will participate in the development process by engaging in a series of processes during and surrounding Professor Chetioui’s two-week visit to SDSU. More details on this project to follow.

**Community Interview - Final**

You will be asked to engage in a series of three interviews. Some will take place in person, some may take place via internet exchange. You will be expected to turn one of these interviews into a monologue to be presented in class. The other two interviews will be turned into Ethno-poems. More details regarding the interview format and subjects will be given.

**Monologue (10 Points)**

**Poems – (10 Points)**

**Group Presentation (10 Points)**
Attending Performances (5 points)

The School of Theatre, Television and Film requires that students attend all performances taking place during the semester students are enrolled in a course within the school. This semester you will be required to purchase tickets and attend the SDSU season shows and film festivals. You are required to turn in ticket stubs as proof of attendance and a brief paper about the play on the Tuesday following the close of the event. For the film festival, all that is required is to turn in your ticket stub.

You can find a list of productions and an opportunity to purchase discounted tickets via the School web site. There is a direct link to purchase tickets on the website: http://theatre.sdsu.edu

Grading:

94-100 = A
90-93 = A-
87-89 = B+
83-86 = B
80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+
73-76 = C
70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+
63-66 = D
60-62 = D-

Subject to change and mid-semester revisions.